

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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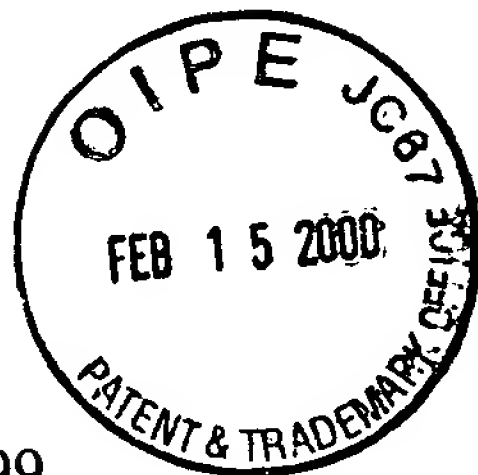
In re Application of:

Jonnie R. WILLIAMS

Serial No. 09/397,018

Filed: September 15, 1999

For: IMPROVED METHOD OF TREATING
TOBACCO TO REDUCE NITROSAMINE
CONTENT, AND PRODUCTS PRODUCED
THEREBY



) Group Art Unit: 1731

) Examiner: Unknown

) Atty. Dkt. No.: 04859.84703

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to make this application special under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and under the guidelines of M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII).

A preexamination search was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by James H. Knebel, a registered patent attorney and professional searcher who has a place of business at 4615 Tapestry Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22032-3916. The search was conducted in the following classes and subclasses: 131/290, 292-304, 309, 310, 326, 347, and 352; 432/500; and 435/267. For each of these classes and subclasses, U.S. Patents were searched. The integrity of the search files was verified in the following classes and subclasses: 131/290, 296, 297, 300, 302, and 303; and 432/500.

In addition, an on-line literature search was conducted by Suzanne Elsoffer, a professional searcher who has a place of business at 194 Posnegansett Avenue, Warnick, Rhode Island, 02888.

Sources for the on-line literature search were (1) Chemical Abstracts; (2) AGRICOLA; (3) CABA (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux); and (4) Conference Papers Index.

A check in the amount of \$130.00 for the Petition fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(2) is attached, as well as a supportive Information Disclosure Statement, a completed form PTO-1449, and a copy of each of the references listed on the PTO-1449. In an additional fee is due or if an overpayment of fees is made, please charge or credit any difference to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 as appropriate.

Applicant submits that the present Petition satisfies the guidelines set forth in M.P.E.P. §708.02(VIII). Applicant requests that the Petition be granted and the application be examined substantively.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 15, 2000

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